

the cobra swallowed the mouse, though with some difficulty, as some of its small teeth were gone. Its clumsiness in feeding with the absence of fangs and teeth was noticeable. At the time of this writing, eight months later, this snake is a healthy specimen, feeding well, still on dead mice with less difficulty. The venom gland areas are still hollow and there is no sign of the fangs growing back.

C/o K. CHATTOPADHYAYA,  
CHATEAU MARINE No. 6,  
MARINE DRIVE,  
BOMBAY-1,  
April 30, 1969.

ROMULUS WHITAKER

15. COBRA, *NAJA NAJA* (LINN.), AND INDIAN MONITOR  
LIZARD, *VARANUS MONITOR* (LINN.) IN THE  
SAME BURROW

On November 22, 1968, I was called to Nagala Village, Gaimukhbunder, Ghodbunder Road, Thana, to catch a cobra in a hole under a tree. In trying to drag the snake out, it went deeper and soon its head appeared out of a hole on the other side of the tree. We first tried to pull it out by the tail, but it would not yield, we then tried to induce it to continue through, also in vain. The snake seemed to be stuck as it acted unnaturally, keeping its mouth open and not moving forward or back. I thought that perhaps it had swallowed a large rat and thus was caught under the roots. Carefully two workers dug away at the hole and tree roots until nearly half the snake's length was revealed. Securing a grip on the cobra's neck I then dug around its body to free it. In a few minutes we had the snake out and ready to bag. Just then a monitor (*Varanus monitor*), a large one, came rushing out of the same hole, under our legs. With some difficulty it was caught and the 5 feet cobra and 3½ feet lizard put into separate bags. When a *Varanus* is disturbed it tightly inflates its body with air, which prevents its removal from rock crevices and holes. The cobra, upon entering the monitor's dwelling caused the lizard to swell up at the disturbance, blocking the snake's progress in either direction.

C/o CHATTOPADHYAYA,  
CHATEAU MARINE No. 6,  
MARINE DRIVE,  
BOMBAY,  
December 30, 1968.

ROMULUS WHITAKER